

Senate Bill No. 430

Passed the Senate September 7, 2005

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 1, 2005

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2005, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Sections 1241.5, 42127.8, and 47604.4 of the Education Code, relating to charter schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 430, Runner. Charter schools.

Existing law establishes the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team to provide, among other things, fiscal management assistance at the request of any school district or county office of education.

This bill would permit a county superintendent of schools to request the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team to review the fiscal or administrative condition of a school district or charter school under his or her jurisdiction. The bill would, in addition, permit a charter school to request specified assistance from the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team.

This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 42127.8 of the Education Code proposed by AB 1366, that would become operative only if AB 1366 and this bill are both chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 2006, and this bill is chaptered last.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1241.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

1241.5. (a) At any time during a fiscal year, the county superintendent may audit the expenditures and internal controls of school districts he or she determines to be fiscally accountable, and shall conduct this audit in a timely and efficient manner. The county superintendent shall report the findings and recommendation to the governing board of the district within 45 days of completing the audit. The governing board shall, no later than 15 days after receipt of the report, notify the county superintendent of schools of its proposed actions on the county superintendent's recommendation. Upon review of the governing

board report, the county superintendent, at his or her discretion, may revoke the authority for the district to be fiscally accountable pursuant to Section 42650.

(b) At any time during a fiscal year, the county superintendent may review or audit the expenditures and internal controls of any school district in his or her county if he or she has reason to believe that fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices have occurred that merit examination. The review or audit conducted by the county superintendent shall be focused on the alleged fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices and shall be conducted in a timely and efficient manner. The county superintendent shall report the findings and recommendations to the governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled school district board meeting within 45 days of completing the review, audit, or examination. The governing board of the school district shall, no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of the report, notify the county superintendent of its proposed actions on the county superintendent's recommendations. Upon review of the school district governing board report, the county superintendent, at his or her discretion, and consistent with law, may disapprove an order for payment of funds consistent with Section 42638.

(c) At any time during a fiscal year, the county superintendent may review or audit the expenditures and internal controls of any charter school in his or her county if he or she has reason to believe that fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices have occurred that merit examination. The review or audit conducted by the county superintendent shall be focused on the alleged fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices and shall be conducted in a timely and efficient manner. The county superintendent shall report the findings and recommendations to the governing board of the charter school at a regularly scheduled meeting, and provide a copy of the information to the chartering authority of the charter school, within 45 days of completing the review, audit, or examination. The governing board of the charter school shall, no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of the report, notify the county superintendent and its chartering authority of its proposed response to the recommendations.

SEC. 2. Section 42127.8 of the Education Code is amended to read:

42127.8. (a) The governing board provided for in subdivision (b) shall establish a unit to be known as the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team. The team shall consist of persons having extensive experience in school district budgeting, accounting, data processing, telecommunications, risk management, food services, pupil transportation, purchasing and warehousing, facilities maintenance and operation, and personnel administration, organization, and staffing. The Superintendent may appoint one employee of the department to serve on the unit. The unit shall be operated under the immediate direction of an appropriate county office of education selected jointly, in response to an application process, by the Superintendent and the Secretary for Education.

(b) The unit established under subdivision (a) shall be selected and governed by a 23-member governing board consisting of one representative chosen by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association from each of the 11 county service regions designated by the association, 11 superintendents of school districts chosen by the Association of California School Administrators from each of the 11 county service regions, and one representative from the State Department of Education chosen by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The governing board of the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team shall select a county superintendent of schools to chair the unit.

(c) (1) The Superintendent may request the unit to provide the assistance described in subdivision (b) of Section 1624, Section 1630, Section 33132, subdivision (b) of Section 42127.3, subdivision (c) of Section 42127.6, Section 42127.9, and subdivision (a) of Section 42238.2, and to review the fiscal and administrative condition of any county office of education, school district, or charter school.

(2) A county superintendent of schools may request the unit to review the fiscal or administrative condition of a school district or charter school under his or her jurisdiction.

(d) In addition to the functions described in subdivision (c), the unit shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide fiscal management assistance, at the request of any school district, charter school, or county office of education. Each school district, charter school, or county office of education receiving that assistance shall be required to pay the onsite personnel costs and travel costs incurred by the unit for that purpose, pursuant to rates determined by the governing board established under subdivision (b). The governing board annually shall distribute rate information to each school district, charter school, and county office of education.

(2) Facilitate training for members of the governing board of the school district, district and county superintendents, chief financial officers within the district, and schoolsite personnel whose primary responsibility is to address fiscal issues. Training services shall emphasize efforts to improve fiscal accountability and expand the fiscal competency of local agencies. The unit shall use state professional associations, private organizations, and public agencies to provide guidance, support, and the delivery of any training services.

(3) Facilitate fiscal management training through the 10 county service regions to county office of education staff to ensure that they develop the technical skills necessary to perform their fiduciary duty. The governing board established pursuant to subdivision (b) shall determine the extent of the training that is necessary to comply with this paragraph.

(4) Produce a training calendar, to be disseminated semiannually to each county service region, that publicizes all of the fiscal training services that are being offered at the local, regional, and state levels.

(e) The governing board shall reserve not less than 25 percent, nor more than 50 percent, of its revenues each year for expenditure for the costs of contracts and professional services as management assistance to school districts, charter schools, or county superintendents of schools in which the board determines that a fiscal emergency exists.

(f) The governing board established under subdivision (b) may levy an annual assessment against each county office of education that elects to participate under this section in an amount not to exceed twenty cents (\$0.20) per unit of total average daily attendance for all school districts within the

county. The revenues collected pursuant to that assessment shall be applied to the expenses of the unit.

(g) The governing board established under subdivision (b) may pay to the department, from any available funds, a reasonable amount to reimburse the department for actual administrative expenses incurred in the review of the budgets and fiscal conditions of school districts, charter schools, and county superintendents of schools.

(h) When employed as a fiscal adviser by the department pursuant to Section 1630, employees of the unit established pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be considered employees of the department for purposes of errors and omissions liability insurance.

(i) (1) The unit shall request and review applications to establish regional teams of education finance experts throughout the state.

(2) To the extent that funding is provided for purposes of this subdivision in the annual Budget Act or through another appropriation, regional teams selected by the Superintendent, in consultation with the unit, shall provide training and technical expertise to school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education facing fiscal difficulties.

(3) The regional teams shall follow the standards and guidelines of and remain under the general supervision of the governing board established under subdivision (b).

(4) It is the intent of the Legislature that, to the extent possible, the regional teams be distributed geographically throughout the various regions of the state in order to provide timely, cost-effective expertise to school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education throughout the state.

SEC. 2.5. Section 42127.8 of the Education Code is amended to read:

42127.8. (a) The governing board provided for in subdivision (b) shall establish a unit to be known as the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team. The team shall consist of persons having extensive experience in school district budgeting, accounting, data processing, telecommunications, risk management, food services, pupil transportation, purchasing and warehousing, facilities maintenance and operation, and personnel administration, organization, and staffing. The Superintendent

may appoint one employee of the department to serve on the unit. The unit shall be operated under the immediate direction of an appropriate county office of education selected jointly, in response to an application process, by the Superintendent and the Secretary for Education.

(b) The unit established under subdivision (a) shall be selected and governed by a 25-member governing board consisting of one representative chosen by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association from each of the 11 county service regions designated by the association, 11 superintendents of school districts chosen by the Association of California School Administrators from each of the 11 county service regions, one representative from the State Department of Education chosen by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges or his or her designee, and one member of a community college district governing board chosen by the chancellor. The governing board of the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team shall select a county superintendent of schools to chair the unit.

(c) (1) The Superintendent may request the unit to provide the assistance described in subdivision (b) of Section 1624, Section 1630, Section 33132, subdivision (b) of Section 42127.3, subdivision (c) of Section 42127.6, Section 42127.9, and subdivision (a) of Section 42238.2, and to review the fiscal and administrative condition of any county office of education, school district, or charter school.

(2) A county superintendent of schools may request the unit to review the fiscal or administrative condition of a school district or charter school under his or her jurisdiction.

(3) The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges may request the unit to provide the assistance described in Section 84041.

(d) In addition to the functions described in subdivision (c), the unit shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide fiscal management assistance, at the request of any school district, charter school, or county office of education, or, pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 84041, at the request of any community college district. Each school district, charter school, or county office of education receiving that assistance shall be required to pay the onsite personnel costs and travel

costs incurred by the unit for that purpose, pursuant to rates determined by the governing board established under subdivision (b). The governing board annually shall distribute rate information to each school district, charter school, and county office of education.

(2) Facilitate training for members of the governing board of the school district, district and county superintendents, chief financial officers within the district, and schoolsite personnel whose primary responsibility is to address fiscal issues. Training services shall emphasize efforts to improve fiscal accountability and expand the fiscal competency of local agencies. The unit shall use state professional associations, private organizations, and public agencies to provide guidance, support, and the delivery of any training services.

(3) Facilitate fiscal management training through the 11 county service regions to county office of education staff to ensure that they develop the technical skills necessary to perform their fiduciary. The governing board established pursuant to subdivision (b) shall determine the extent of the training that is necessary to comply with this paragraph.

(4) Produce a training calendar, to be disseminated semiannually to each county service region, that publicizes all of the fiscal training services that are being offered at the local, regional, and state levels.

(e) The governing board shall reserve not less than 25 percent, nor more than 50 percent, of its revenues each year for expenditure for the costs of contracts and professional services as management assistance to school districts or county superintendents of schools in which the board determines that a fiscal emergency exists.

(f) The governing board established under subdivision (b) may levy an annual assessment against each county office of education that elects to participate under this section in an amount not to exceed twenty cents (\$0.20) per unit of total average daily attendance for all school districts within the county. The revenues collected pursuant to that assessment shall be applied to the expenses of the unit.

(g) The governing board established under subdivision (b) may pay to the department, from any available funds, a reasonable amount to reimburse the department for actual

administrative expenses incurred in the review of the budgets and fiscal conditions of school districts, charter schools, and county superintendents of schools.

(h) When employed as a fiscal adviser by the department pursuant to Section 1630, employees of the unit established pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be considered employees of the department for purposes of errors and omissions liability insurance.

(i) (1) The unit shall request and review applications to establish regional teams of education finance experts throughout the state.

(2) To the extent that funding is provided for purposes of this subdivision in the annual Budget Act or through another appropriation, regional teams selected by the Superintendent, in consultation with the unit, shall provide training and technical expertise to school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education facing fiscal difficulties.

(3) The regional teams shall follow the standards and guidelines of and remain under the general supervision of the governing board established under subdivision (b).

(4) It is the intent of the Legislature that, to the extent possible, the regional teams be distributed geographically throughout the various regions of the state in order to provide timely, cost-effective expertise to school districts, charter schools, county offices of education, and community college districts throughout the state.

SEC. 3. Section 47604.4 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47604.4. (a) In addition to the authority granted by Sections 1241.5 and 47604.3, a county superintendent of schools may, based upon written complaints by parents or other information that justifies the investigation, monitor the operations of a charter school located within that county and conduct an investigation into the operations of that charter school. If a county superintendent of schools monitors or investigates a charter school pursuant to this section, the county office of education shall not incur any liability beyond the cost of the investigation.

(b) A charter school shall notify the county superintendent of schools of the county in which it is located of the location of the

charter school, including the location of each site, if applicable, prior to commencing operations.

SEC. 4. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 42127.8 of the Education Code proposed by both this bill and AB 1366. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2006, (2) each bill amends Section 42127.8 of the Education Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after AB 1366, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

Approved _____, 2005

Governor